

Martin Luther Lutheran Church 211 Luther LN P. O. Box 362 Carmine, TX 78932

> MLLC's Mission Statement:

Martin Luther Lutheran Church, called by the Spirit to be a community of faith, welcomes all to a ministry of Word and Sacrament, that together we may grow in faith, and be equipped for service to God and our community.

### Luther's Letter

nonthly publication of
Martin Luther Lutheran Church
P. O. Box 362, 211 Luther LN, Carmine, TX 78932
Church office: 979-278-3388; fax: 979-278-3387
e-mail: mluther@industryinet.com

website: mllccarmine.com

Rev. David Tinker, Pastor Cell phone#: 713-461-8007 e-mail: pastordjt@industryinet.com

office hours: 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday
Nancy Eilers, Carol Carmean, & Nancy Rosenbaum, secretaries

### Worship schedule:

Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion 6:00 p.m. Sunday School for all – Sundays 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship w/Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

Church Council: Ronnie Eckert-President; RaChelle Kuecker-President-elect; Anita Drydale-Secretary; Cindy Weidemann-Treasurer; Jessica Weidemann-Worship Committee; Karen Roemer-Stewardship Committee; Shelby Vaughn-Christian Education Committee; Outreach/Care Committee; Brick Peele-Property Committee

You were straying like sheep.

but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The 4th Sunday of Easter, May 3 this year, is also known as Good Shepherd Sunday (Recite the 23rd Psalm again!!)





Martin Luther Lutheran Church

MAY, 2020

From John 20:19 – When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Temple authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you".



"Where flowers bloom, so does hope." --Lady Bird Johnson



UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS and Our Situation in Late April and May, 2020:

The Church Council voted at the meeting on April 21, 2020, to continue to suspend worship until further notice. We are still in a difficult situation. The COVID-19 illness is currently increasing in our area of Texas. The COVID-10 virus has turned our daily lives upside down. There are difficulties

of one form or another we all face in this time. We continue to avoid panic in this time. The MLLC Church Council is consulting the recommendations of nation, state and local government, as well as our own Gulf Coast Synod leadership.

### Here is the Plan for the coming weeks:

\*All worship services are suspended until conditions change, and government authorities authorize meeting in larger groups.

\*All classes, events, and committee meetings are suspended as well.

\*The church office staff will only be on site as needed, but generally Monday-Friday. Call before coming by. The office answering machine will be checked regularly. For emergencies please contact Pastor David Tinker on his cell phone: 713-461-8007

### Devotional and Worship

Daily devotions will continue on the church web site: mllccarmine.com The link for these is being emailed to the newsletter list, and the links are provided on the church Facebook page.

To begin receiving these notifications, send a message requesting that your address be added. mluther@industryinet.com

We will offer a Sunday devotion through our Facebook page on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. It will be viewable later as desired. You do not need a Facebook account to view the service. Go to: https://www.facebook.com/mllccarmine/ to view the church page.

We will also be sending a bulletin and Sunday devotion to our older members (~75+), nursing home residents and shut-in individuals. This will be by email (if used by the person) or by postal delivery. The same bulletin will be available on the web site each week.

### Senior Citizens and AA

If you are involved with outside groups which meet at church facilities, such as Combined Community Action/Senior Citizens, AA, etc., please consult the leadership of those groups to determine any changes in those programs.

# Daily Bible Readings for May 1-30

These are from "The St. James Daily Devotional Guide for the Christian Year". This is the set of nis scripture reading plan. Let's read these each daily readings used by Pastor David Tinker for day as an act of faith and unity in our congregation.

## May 1

1 Corinthians 15:35-49 Ezekiel 21 Psalm 146, 147 John 6:1-14

### May 2

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Ezekiel 22 Psalm 148, 149, 150 John 6:15-21

### May 3

1 Corinthians 11:17-26 Ezekiel 23 John 6:22-27 Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4

### May 4

1 Corinthians 11:27-34 Ezekiel 24 John 6:28-40 Psalms 5, 6, 7

### John 6:41-51 May 5

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Ezekiel 25 Psalms 9, 10 May 6

John 6:52-59 1 Corinthians 10:14-22 Ezekiel 26 Psalms 8, 11, 15, 16

# May 7

John 6:60-71 1 Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1 Psalms 12, 13, 14, 17 Ezekiel 27

### May 8

John 7:1-9

Ezekiel 28 Psalm 18

1 Corinthians 11:2-16

## May 9

John 7:10-24 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Ezekiel 29 Psalms 19, 20, 21

# May 10

John 7:25-36 1 Corinthians 12:12-19 Ezekiel 30 Psalms 22, 23, 24

1 Corinthians 12:20-31

Ezekiel 31

Psalms 25, 27

John 7:40-53

**May 11** 

John 14:12-24 Ephesians 2:11-18 Psalm 52, 53, 54, 55

# May 23

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Ezekiel 32

Psalms 26, 28, 31

John 8:1-12

May 12

# May 24

1 Corinthians 14:1-13

Ezekiel 33

Psalms 29, 30, 33

John 8:13-20

May 13

## May 25

1 Corinthians 14:14-25

John 8:21-30 Psalm 34, 35

May 14

Ezekiel 34

Ezekiel 45 Ephesians 3:8-21 John 15:9-17

# May 26

John 8:31-47 | Corinthians 14:26-40

**May 15** 

Ezckiel 35

Psalms 32, 36, 38

4:1-16 Psalm 68

1 Corinthians 16:1-12

John 9:1-12 Psalm 37

May 16

Ezekiel 36

May 27 John 16:1-15

# May 28

John 9:13-23 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

May 17

Ezekiel 37

Psalms 39, 40, 41

# May 29

Ephesians 5:8-21 Psalms 71, 73, 137 John 16:25-33

Ephesians 5:22-33 Joel 1 May 30 John 17:1-10 Psalm 74, 77

# May 21

Psalms 8, 24, 47, 110 Ezekiel 41 Luke 24:36-53 Acts 1:1-14

## May 22

John 14:25-31 Ephesians 2:19 - 3:7 Ezekiel 43 Psalm 56, 57, 58, 60

Acts 1:15-26 Psalms 118, 145 Ezekiel 44 John 15:1-8

Psalms 61, 62, 65, 67

Ezckiel 46 John 15:18-27

Ephesians 4:17-24 Ezekiel 47 Psalm 69

John 16:16-24 Ephesians 4:25 - 5:7 Ezekiel 48 Psalms 66, 70, 72

Obadiah

Ezekiel 38

Psalms 42, 43, 44

John 9:24-41

May 18

Ephesians 1:1-14

Ephesians 1:15-23

John 13:31-38

May 19

Ezekiel 39

Psalms 45, 49

John 14:1-11 Ephesians 2:1-10 Psalms 46, 47, 48 Ezekiel 40

May 20

# Adapted from the Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer and Luther's Small Catechism Daily Devotion Format for Individuals, Families, and Households

# In the Morning

From Psalm 51

Open my lips, O Lord, \*

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*

and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence \*\* and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again \* and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \* as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

A Reading from Daily Readings, personal choice or this:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."
I Peter 1:3

A hymn or song may be used; the Apostles Creed may be said.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

# Luther's Morning Prayer

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over

# At Noon or Midday

From Psalm 113

Give praise, you servants of the LORD; \* praise the Name of the LORD.

Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, \*

from this time forth for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its going down \*

let the Name of the LORD be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations, \* and his glory above the heavens.

A Reading from Daily Readings, personal choice, or this:

"O God, you will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are fixed on you; for in returning and rest we shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be our strength." Isaiah 26:3; 30:15

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

The Prayer

Blessed Savior, at this hour you hung upon the cross, stretching out your loving arms: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may look to you and be saved; for your mercies' sake. *Amen*.

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Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.* 

# Adapted from the Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer and Luther's Small Catechism Daily Devotion Format for Individuals, Families, and Households

# In the Early Evening

This devotion may be used hefore or after the evening meal.

O gracious light,

pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the vesper light,

we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O Giver of Life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

A Reading from Daily Readings, personal choice, or this:

"It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corimhians 4:5-6

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others.

The Lord's Prayer

# The Prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.* 

# At the Close of Day

Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, \* you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; \* the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

A Reading from Daily Readings, personal choice, or this:

Lord, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. Jeremiah 14:9,22

The following may be said:

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*

to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*

whom you have prepared for all the world to see;

A Light to enlighten the nations, \* and the glory of your people Israel.

Prayers for ourselves and others may follow. It is appropriate that prayers of thanksgiving for the blessings of the day, and penitence for our sins, be included.

The Lord's Prayer

# Luther's Evening Prayer

I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen*.



**CONFIRMATION DAY** (originally scheduled for May 17) has been postponed to a later date. Families of the confirmands have been notified of this change.

### SPECIAL DAYS IN



### MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 10

May this be a day when we express our gratitude to God for our parents, especially our mothers. As families, let us lift up our prayers unto the Lord.

### **ASCENSION DAY - MAY 21.**

From Ephesians 1:17-18: "I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes

of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you..."

### PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 25 - We

remember, O Lord, all those
people throughout the years who
have made the supreme sacrifice
for our country, for liberty, for us.
(Plans are to include the lists
of deceased Veterans with the
bulletin for May 24.)

### <u>DAY OF PENTECOST –</u> MAY 31

From Psalm 104:31-34:
"May the glory of the
Lord endure forever; may the
Lord rejoice in his works—who
looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and
they smoke. I will sing to the
Lord as long as I live; I will sing
praise to my God while I have
being. May my meditation be
pleasing to him."



2020 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – ALL ABOARD THE ROCKY RAILWAY –

where Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through --

PLEASE NOTE: THE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO

AUGUST 2-6, WITH CLOSING ON AUGUST 9.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN, AND THE <u>DEADLINE</u> IS JUNE 30.

ABOUT THE CODES
BELOW: For the Participant
Code and the Volunteer
Code, use the camera on your

Smartphone and it will bring up the link to the Google Form to fill out for registration. Any questions about VBS or problems with scanning the code, email Shelby or text her at 979-203-3408.

Registration is also available at the church website: https://mllccarmine.com/vacation-bible-scool-2020/



### **VOLUNTEER CODE**



PLEASE NOTE ALSO: VBS at Bethlehem-Round Top will be June 1-4, 5:30-8:30 p.m. with the theme, "Anchored". There are registration forms in the narthex and church office. For more information, contact Stacy Eilers at 979-639-1897. (Please keep in mind the dates may change.)

MISSION APPEAL ENVELOPES are included in this newsletter. The funds collected are designated for Lutheran Disaster Response of the ELCA. You may send your contribution in the mail, or bring it by the office, with the check made out to MLLC. In the memo line, write "Lutheran Disaster Response". You may also go to the website to donate: mllcarmine/online-giving/disaster relief-lutherandisasterresponse.



### **WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS:**

The WELCA banquet has been postponed with a new date to be announced later.

### Masks for Upbring/Krause Children's Center

MLLC was contacted on April 16 by Quana Smith, Director of Volunteer Services at the



Center in Katy, (part of Upbring), asking if we would be interested in sewing face masks for them. Our MLLC ladies responded, and 93 face masks were delivered there on April 22. The folks at Krause Children's Center were so happy to receive them. A big thank you to those who sewed the masks—Darlene Etzel, Cheryl Etzel, Diana Wunderlich, Dianna Gerland, and Nancy Eilers.



### CEMETERY DECORATIONS

The Carmine Cemetery Decoration service has been cancelled for this year.

The La Bahia Cemetery Decoration Service will be held on Sunday, May 31, at 3:00 p.m. with St. John's United Church of Christ in Burton in charge of the service.



ATTENTION, ALL GRADUATES! We want to honor you for your hard work in studying and wish you the

best as you move on to the next step of your lives!

All graduates—kindergarten, high school, college, and college (August & December, 2019, and May, 2020) are asked to let the church office know of their graduation by May 22. For college, please furnish us with the name of college or university and degree received. Names will be listed in the June newsletter.

### **MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Dana Kelley	01	Emily Kelley	1 <b>7</b>
Kaitlyn Pawlak	02	Christy Kelley	18
Robbie Stork	02	Bradley Eilers	19
Brooke Eckert	03	Whitney Hinze	20
Kay Schmidt	04	Amanda Leppard	20
Carah Weiss	05	Marlene Waak	20
Floyd Etzel	06	Jenell Jaster	22
Reese O'Malley	06	Edith Flinn	24
Judy Yarborough	06	Roger Sommerfeld	24
Brittany Jacob	08	Becky Jasinski	25
Ava Kelley	10	Nikki Pohl	25
Beverly Cucuzza	15	Karen Springer	26
RaChelle Kuecker	15	Donna Mueller	28
Sierra Richard	16	Jared Pohl	28
Mary Zajicek	16	Hope Wunderlich	29
•		Bryan Miller	31
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### PRAYER LIST:

Current Member
Prayer Concerns:

Jenell Jaster
(health issues); and Johnny
Dunham (health concerns).

**Current Friends and Family Prayer Concerns:** Robert Vaughn (at Texas Neurology, thankful for extended stay for rehab); Carol Mertz Leitzel, Janet Schnell Beckworth (both friends of Praise Team leader Jolene Wickel, health concerns and in hospitals); Ricky Eckert (brother of Ronnie Eckert, health concerns); Kalisa Pomykal (Paula Barrick's sister, medical concerns); Kenny Lorenz (former member, Robert Hinze's relative, severe burns); Nancy Pietsch (former RT-C teacher, health concerns); Joyce Kelley (friend, health concerns); Jack Walsh (friend of Wade Eilers, recurring melanoma); Bill Clarke (friend of Daryl & Susan Ray, stage 4 cancer); Carrie Bozarth (friend of Sedalia Ullrich, cancer); and Edna Mae Krivacka (friend of Ed Eargle and Carol Carmean, at Care Inn, after back surgery).

Ongoing Member Prayer
Concerns: David Eilers, Pauline
Fischer, Ruby Renck, Linda
Kovar, Jack Flinn, Vickie
Neutzler, and Ashley Weiss.

Ongoing Friends and Family Prayer Concerns: Jason Weidemann, Paul Banks, Fritz Schoenst, Sam Doerr, Burnie & Nellie Wolff, Nina Kelley, Annie Pless, Stephany Hamrell, Pastor Willie Rotter, Carl & Linda Richardson, Mark Riggin, Bruce Muske, Shirley Neumann, Annie Pietsch, Charles Marburger, Frances Glueck & family, Pastor Bill Derrick, Sharon Johnson, Hunter Pomykal, Kay Griffin, Kevin Taylor, Berkley Fincher, Mikayla Peschke, Lucas Smith, Dale Walker, Kaitlyn Fritz, Jimmy Alvarado, Russell Zickley, Kenneth Bishop, Steven Pratt, Joey Pomykal, Bertha Reuther, Don Steinbach, Michael (Butch) Schulz, Mary Edwards, Josh Dow, Amanda Sebastian, Doris Fay Georges, Kaitlyn Nienstedt, Fred Kessell, Lloyd Pieper, C. J. Lehmann, Harris Kubos, Jr., and Sam Reeves.

Homebound Members: Nevilee Marburger (in Houston); Judy

Yarborough, Peetsy Fischer, and Shirley Mueller (at home at their Bed & Breakfast in Brenham).

Members in Care and Assisted
Living Facilities: Joyce
Lehmann and La Verne Kunkel
(at Bec's Blessing in Giddings);
Bernice Mueller (at Argent
Court, Brenham); Elvera
Limmer, Verline Schulte, and
Marge Morris (Brenham
Nursing & Rehab); and Elvera
Rudloff (at a small assisted
living facility in Houston).

Military Personnel:

MLLC member: Joseph Vogel; Family & Friends: Michael Martin, Jonathon Noak, Justyn Bearden, Kyle Slaughter, and all those who serve, known and unknown, in harm's way.



TIN CHRISTIAN
SYMPATHY... to the families
and friends of: Dora Miller,
Jeannie Johnson (grandmother
of Josh Aranzolo, Emily Ortiz,
and Matthew & Nick Colpetzer);
LaVerne Krumrey (friend from
Brenham), and Ruby Marburger
Ivey (Nikki Pohl's mother).



### **OFFICIAL ACTS IN APRIL:**

Graveside Service: Pastor Tinker officiated at the graveside service of Dora Miller on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at the Carmine Cemetery. A future memorial service is planned. Mrs. Miller passed away on April 19, 2020.

Pastor Tinker led a brief memorial/remembrance service at MLLC for Jeannie Johnson, who passed away April 17, 2020, on Saturday, April 18, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS to Sierra & Alan Richard on the birth of their daughter, Brinley Adeline Richard, born March 10, 2020, weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz., and measured 20-7/8 inches. From MLLC, grandparents are Ronda & Mark Kunkel, and greatgrandparents are Dean & Joyce Ullrich. Brinley was welcomed by her sister, Presley.





### THANKS FOR THE MUSIC AND DONATIONS!

THANKS TO SHELBY VAUGHN who has been recording the church services that are streamlined on Facebook and mllccarmine.com website.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO PROVIDED SPECIAL MUSIC ON EASTER SUNDAY via Facebook and the MLLC website--Nancy Eilers on organ, Jennifer Mohr on trumpet, and to Kristen Graeter Holub who sang "Because He Lives" as a solo, and accompanied herself.

A.M.E.N. Food Pantry of La Grange sends a thank you for the April 1, 2020, donation of \$25.00 from MLLC. Susan Pylant of the A.M.E.N. Board of Directors, says "We sincerely appreciate your participation in serving our community."

### Martin Luther Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Members Present: Ronnie Eckert, Pastor David Tinker, RaChelle Kuecker, Anita Drydale, Brick Peele, and Karen Roemer.

Members Absent: Shelby Vaughn, Cindy Weidemann and Jessica Weidemann.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Ronnie.

The devotion and prayer presented by Pastor.

The Minutes and Treasurer's Report from the March Church Council meeting were approved.

### Committee Reports:

No reports at this time for: Christian Education Committee, Worship Committee, and Outreach Committee.

### Property Committee:

- --Repaired toilet in fellowship hall.
- Parlor conference chair taken to Church Lane Upholstery/ Ledbetter.

Brenda Dunlap verbally quoted \$150 per chair plus cost of vinyl fabric (approx. \$170 each).

### Stewardship Committee:

Lutheran Mission Appeal envelopes will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

### **New Business:**

- --Venmo and Cash App Giving more offering choices.
   Continue to research.
- Continued to suspend church services until further notice.
   Notice to go out in Newsletter.
   Will continue to re-evaluate.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

RaChelle will give the devotion at next month's meeting, which will be on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Anita Drydale MLLC Council Secretary

### **ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Date	Attendance	General	Online	Building
04-05	NO	5,892.00	50.00	-0-
	SERVICE			
04-12	NO	4,050.00	869.13	230.00
	SERVICE			
04-19	NO	1,281.00	385.00	30.00
<u> </u>	SERVICE			



### **MLLC FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

March 2020 Year to Date							
Total Income	\$60,783.18						
Total Expenses	57,612.45						
Net Income:	\$ 3,170.73						
March 2020 Month							
Total Income	\$21,117.10						
Total Expenses	12,544.18						
Net Income:	\$ 8,572.92						
Year to Date Expenses Highlights:							
Salaries and Benefits	\$35,988.65						
Reimbursements	4,923.69						
Property Insurance	3,936.50						
Utilities	3,569.30						

Benevolences

Pest Control

Miscellaneous

Supplies & Forms

Camping Ministry

Postage & Handling

Bulletins & Envelopes

Maintenance & Repair

Equipment & Tools

Printing



### 2020 FIRST QUARTER MEMORIAL REPORT

2020 TRST QUARTER MEMORI	ALI	KLI OK
Tone Chimes Shirley Tingley	\$	25.00
CCA Senior Citizens Center Branch Neutzler El Gene Schulle Wardell Stebner Louis Kartous Jack Weidemann	\$	80.00
General Fund  Branch Neutzler El Gene Schulle Louis Kartous Jack Weidemann	\$1	,516.00
WELCA Jack Weidemann	\$	10.00
Building Fund Jack Weidemann	<b>\$</b>	20.00

THERE WILL BE NO SHARED MINISTRY NEWSLETTER THIS MONTH.

CHERRIE WINES WILL SEND BULLETINS TO SHUT-INS AND CARDS TO VISITORS FOR MAY.

### A prayer for Memorial Day



3,270.33

1,692.00

969.72

594.00

965.00

696.90

447.23

250.00

259.25

49.88

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who self-

lessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.